

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 H-03 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 SPC-03 IO-14 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 088181

P R 251005Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7411

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF

CDR JCRC NKP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0643

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: SENATE HEARINGS ON PW/MIAS

REF: (A) STATE 014268 (NOTAL)

(B) VIENTIANE 8139 (NOTAL)

(C) VIENTIANE 7959 (NOTAL)

(D) VIENTIANE 8358 (NOTAL)

(E) VIENTIANE 0464

(F) VIENTIANE 0539

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO REF A REQUEST FOR UPDATED
PW/MIA INFORMATION.

2. REF B SUMMARIZES SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF PW/MIA
SITUATION IN LAOS UP TO DECEMBER 1973. WE HAVE ALSO
READ TEXT OF MR. SIEVERTS' DECEMBER 5 TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND BELIEVE IT
PRESENTED GOOD SUMMARY OF LAOS PW/MIA DEVELOPMENTS.

3. SINCE EARLY DECEMBER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR CHANGES
IN LAOS PW/MIA QUESTION. JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO
IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA), THE ENTITY RESPONSIBLE
FOR IMPLEMENTING PW/MIA ACTION PRESCRIBED IN THE SEPTEMBER
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14 PROTOCOL, HELD FIRST WEEKLY PLENARY SESSION ON NOVEMBER

23 AND, AT THAT TIME, DELEGATIONS ACCORDED "URGENT" STATUS TO PW/MIA ISSUE, WITH PRIORITY AFTER NEUTRALIZATION AND CEASEFIRE ISSUES (PARA 5, REF C). THE JCCIA HAS SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED SLOWLY FORWARD IN TACKLING PROBLEMS RELATED TO NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG, A PRECONDITION LPF HAS SET FOR FORMING THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. SINCE THE PW/MIA ISSUE IS TIED DIRECTLY TO THE JCCIA PROCESS, THE TIMING FOR ANY FUTURE PW/MIA ACTION MUST AWAIT PROGRESS ON NEUTRALIZATION AND CEASEFIRE AGENDA ITEMS.

4. DURING RECENT DEMARCHES MADE BY EMBASSY OFFICERS AND U.S. CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS TO SENIOR LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE (REFS D AND E), THE LPF CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE LPF HOLDS NO U.S. PWS EXCEPT EMMET KAY, THAT EMMET KAY'S RELEASE WILL BE EFFECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL, AND THAT THE LPF ACKNOWLEDGES USG INTEREST IN PW/MIA RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES AND INTENDS TO DO ITS BEST TO GATHER AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PWS/MIAS PURSUANT TO TERMS OF LAO PROTOCOL.

5. FINALLY, REGARDING RECENT PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT GENERAL VANG PAO'S ALLEGATION THAT DRV MAY STILL HOLD US PWS (REFS E AND F), AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE HAS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED THIS THEORY AND FINDS ABSOLUTELY NO FACTUAL BASIS FOR IT. IT APPEARS TO BE AN UNSUBSTANTIATED OPINION OF A LAO GENERAL WHO LIKES TO "GRAND STAND" IN THE PRESENCE OF RECEPTIVE AMERICAN AUDIENCES.

6. IN SUMMARY, EVEN THOUGH THE PW/MIA ISSUE IN LAOS CONTINUES TO BE PUSHED BY AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE AND VISITING OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL DELEGATIONS FROM THE U.S., NO RESPONSE CAN BE EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IS FORMED, THE TIMING OF WHICH CANNOT NOW BE ACCURATELY FORECAST.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POW, MIA, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, UPPER HOUSE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI00643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740114/aaaaamoi.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 014268 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE HEARINGS ON PW/MIAS
TAGS: MOPS, LA, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005